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Message Text

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45
ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EUR-25

OIC-04 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DRC-01 /091 W
---------- 036001
R 051611Z NOV 73
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS GENEVA 5863

FOR SIEVERTS, RED CROSS CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AORG(ICRC), ME
SUBJECT: MID-EAST POW'S - ICRC PRESS RELEASES

1. ICRC ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE TODAY IN FRENCH TEXT.
INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION BELOW (UNNECESSARY WORDS
OMITTED):

QUOTE. IN VIEW VARIOUS POSITIONS RECENTLY TAKEN
BY PARTIES TO CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST, ICRC CALLS
ATTENTION TO FACT APPLICATION OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS IS
NOT CONDITIONED UPON RECIPROCITY. THEY LOOK TO PROTECTION
OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF PROTECTED CIVILIANS AND MILITARY
PERSONNEL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH LETTER AND SPIRIT OF CONVENTIONS,
EACH PARTY MUST FULFILL OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARE INCUMBENT
UPON IT BY VIRTUE OF OBLIGATIONS WHICH IT TOOK IN
SIGNING THEM. THESE COMMITMENTS ARE OF ABSOLUTE, SOLEMN
CHARACTER BY WHICH STATES OBLIGATE THEMSELVES UNILATERALLY,
EACH ONE VIS-A-VIS ALL OTHERS, WITHOUT REGARD TO ACTIONS
OF OTHERS, TO RESPECT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES RULES AND PRINCIPLES
WHICH ARE RECOGNIZED AS BEING VITAL.

GENEVA CONVENTIONS ARE FOUR IN NUMBER: FIRST TWO
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DEAL WITH TREATMENT OF WOUNDED, SICK AND SHIPWRECKED NAVAL

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PERSONNEL. THIRD DEALS WITH PRISONERS OF WAR, AND FOURTH
WITH PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, ESPECIALLY IN OCCUPIED
TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, RED CROSS HAS DEMANDED AND CONTINUES
TO DEMAND THAT PARTIES COMPLY WITH CONVENTIONS IMMEDIATELY
AND COMPLETELY WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP TO MILITARY, POLITICAL OR
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, WHICH ARE OUTSIDE OF CONVENTIONS AND
MUST REMAIN THERE. END QUOTE.

2. ICRC ALSO ISSUES ANOTHER PRESS RELEASE TODAY SAYING IT HAD
DISPATCHED DIRECTOR PIERRE GAILLARD TO DAMASCUS WITH
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF ICRC TO PRESIDENT OF SYRIA.
BASSIN

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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